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MINORITY REPORT

Commission on Convention Representation and Rules

Forty-first International Convention
Young Men's
Christian Associations

Meeting at
Atlantic City, New Jersey
November 14-19, 1922

MINORITY REPORT

To the Forty-first International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America.

Gentlemen:

The signer of this report differs with the Majority Report of the Commission on Convention Representation and Rules on the following points:

1. The submission, for action, to the Atlantic City Convention of a new Basis of Representation in International Conventions.

2. The method of providing for the proposed Constitutional Convention.

It is my opinion that the Associations will not be in a favorable position at Atlantic City to decide upon a new Basis of Representation in future International Conventions. Believing also that the Convention at Atlantic City should not take action on matters that would properly come before the proposed Constitutional Convention and holding opinions as to how the Constitutional Convention should be constituted, I beg to submit the following Minority Report.

I. Basis of Representation in the International Convention

The Detroit Convention instructed the Commission on Convention Representation and Rules, as follows (Page 3 of the Majority Report), with respect to Basis of Representation in the International Convention:

> "That the International Committee be instructed to appoint a Commission which shall report to the International Committee not later than May 1, 1921, their recommendations * * * ."
>
> "The International Committee shall then submit the recommendations of the Commission to the Associations by publication in the first succeeding issue of 'Association Men,' and by sending a copy to the President of each Association for action of the Board of Directors; * * * The majority of votes cast on this referendum shall determine the plan to govern *the succeeding International Convention.*" (The italics are mine.)

On May 25, 1921, the International Committee, on behalf of the Commission, submitted for referendum vote of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America, the Commission's recommendations for a new Basis of Representation and Voting. By a vote of 1,661 to 691 the Associations disapproved of the recommendations of the Commission.

In submitting to the Associations for referendum vote its recommendations as to the Basis of Representation in "the succeeding International Convention," I believe that the Commission discharged

its duty in this particular. Not having been sustained by the referendum vote in its recommendations as to "the succeeding International Convention," that is, the Atlantic City Convention, the Commission now proposes to the Atlantic City Convention a basis of representation for future Conventions, and thus goes beyond the instructions of the Detroit Convention. This proposal, if adopted at Atlantic City, would put a limit upon the functions of the proposed Constitutional Convention.

The Commission was, however, further instructed to "formulate a code of procedural rules for the government of the International Conventions" and "to define the field and functions of the several types of local Associations," and to submit these "to the next International Convention." With the recommendations of the Commission with respect to these matters I am, in the main, in accord.

The most important recommendation of the Majority Report of the Commission is as follows:

> "RESOLVED: That there shall be held a special Convention composed of representatives of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America; such Convention to be designated as the Constitutional Convention."

With this plan I am in hearty accord. Among the questions to come before the Constitutional Convention I believe should be that of the Basis of Representation. I therefore hold that the Atlantic City Convention should not anticipate the action of the Constitutional Convention by attempting to fix the Basis of Representation in future International Conventions which will follow the Constitutional Convention. *Matters germane to the Constitutional Convention should be left to that body for consideration and action, such action to be referred to the Associations for referendum vote before becoming binding upon the Associations.*

RECOMMENDATION NUMBER ONE

1. "That the question of the 'Basis of Representation and Voting' as set out on pages 6 to 9, Article III, of the Majority Report together with matters bound up in it be referred to the Constitutional Convention."

II. The Proposed Constitutional Convention

The Majority Report submits five resolutions—page 22—with respect to the Constitutional Convention. With resolution 1 I am in full accord.

With respect to resolutions 2, 3, 4, and 5, I submit the following:

Resolution 2—an addition shown in capitals. See Recommendation 2, following.

Resolution 3—a substitute. See Recommendation 3, following.

Resolution 4—an addition shown in capitals. See Recommendation 4, following.

Resolution 5—a substitute. See Recommendation 5, following.

RECOMMENDATIONS TWO, THREE, FOUR AND FIVE

2. To Resolution 2 of the Majority Report, page 22, add the words: "through referendum vote," so that the last clause would read: "and to present its findings to the Associations for their action THROUGH REFERENDUM VOTE."

3. For Resolution 3, of the Majority Report, page 22, substitute the following: "That the Nominating Committee of the Atlantic City Convention be instructed to nominate to the Convention for election by it a Committee of Thirty-three on the Constitutional Convention, twenty-two of whom shall be Association laymen and eleven Association employed officers. The Chairman and the General Secretary of the International Committee shall be among those selected. The Nominating Committee shall also nominate alternates to serve on the Committee of Thirty-three in case of inability to serve at any time by any of those elected."

4. To Resolution 4, of the Majority Report, page 22, add to the first clause the words in capitals, so that it would read: "That the Committee of Thirty-three shall be responsible for determining the time and place of meeting of the Constitutional Convention, DETERMINING THE PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND FOR THEIR ADEQUATE PRESENTATION AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, and for all general arrangements for such Convention and shall be members of the Constitutional Convention with voice and vote."

5. For Resolution 5, of the Majority Report, page 22, substitute the following: "That the Basis of Representation in the proposed Constitutional Convention be referred to the Committee of Thirty-three responsible for the Constitutional Convention, with instruction that this Committee after the fullest possible consultation with Associations through hearings and other means submit to the Associations for referendum vote two or more plans for a Basis of Representation in the Constitutional Convention, with the understanding that the plan receiving the largest vote be accepted as the basis of representation in this Convention."

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. COOK.